

DISTRICT VI ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**Monday
October 7, 2002
7:00 p.m.**

**Evergreen Recreation Center
2700 N. Woodland
Lounge-Clubroom**

The District VI Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at Evergreen Recreation Center located at 2700 N. Woodland. In attendance were (12) District Advisory Board Members, (7) City staff members and (4) citizens. Approximately 22 in attendance.

Members Present

Dick Rumsey
Linda Matney
Bickley Foster
Maurine Willis
Rosalie Bradley
Bob Wine
David Pendergraft
John Cohoon
Bob Schreck
Annie Best
Terri Dozal
Sharon Fearey

Members Absent

Jaya Escobar
Kyle Irvin

Guest(s)

listed at end

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Council Member Fearey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed guests, as well as asking DAB members to introduce themselves and the area they represented.

Approval of Minutes

September 9, 2002, minutes were approved as submitted. (**Matney/ Schreck 11-0**)

September 18, 2002 minutes were approved with amendment (**Matney/ Schreck 11-0**)

- ☐ **Item 2: Drainage improvements running from the Arkansas River entering at Athenian.**

Minutes stated pump stations were looked at, it should read strike gravity flow systems were looked at.

Approval of Agenda

A revised agenda changing the police traffic survey results to proposed beat alignments was submitted and approved. (**Schreck/Willis 11-0**)

PUBLIC AGENDA

No items were submitted

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Community Police Report

Officer Ryan, Patrol North, stated there have been lots of quality of life complaints, including prostitution. Some drug complaints are near Topeka and Central. The two Riverside Association clean-ups went well. There will be a **Tire Clean-up** on Friday, October 25, 2002 from 8 am till noon with students from Pleasant Valley School. I encourage anyone interested in assisting to

come and help, especially if you have a truck. This time we will use special trucks to compress tires as we collect them.

Council Member Fearey asked if he knew what happened at the house at 9th and Jefferson? The owner would turn in complaints from around the neighborhood, never with malicious intent and we think someone vandalized her landscaping because of her calling in complaints. It cost quite a few thousands dollars for her to do. **Fearey** said reroute your complaints through the neighborhood assistant. We don't want any more problems to happen.

Member Foster asked if there were any neighborhood grant funds remaining? Couldn't we use some of the money to assist her to rebuild her landscaping? **Fearey** responded she thought the Forestry department would be assisting this resident with some new trees.

Member Bradley commented on the number of complaints about the Fiesta that was held on September 14 and 15 at Twin Lakes. **Bradley** stated lots of neighbors called her. Officer Ryan said he would ask Officer Silva if he had received many complaints.

Council Member Fearey also received lots of calls with complaints of noise. **Fearey** discussed with the City Manager about no fiesta to be held at Twin Lakes next year. The City needs to look at several places within the City Park's property to designate these sites for large events. This could be a site for the large events where no residents can be disturbed.

Member Willis stated the Word of Life Church School during the football games on Friday night shoots off canon fire each time they score. Last Friday night they had a lot of canon activity.

Lt. Givens, Patrol North stated officers would look into this.

Proposed New Police Beat Alignments

Lt. Givens, Patrol North commander for Community Police and SCAT gave a brief overview of the changes taking place mainly West of the railroad tracks. Officers will stay in their same area but due to calls and weight load the beats need to be balanced out. District I will have a major change going further east, acquiring the Willowbend area. Patrol West and East will each acquire an additional Beat.

Council Member Fearey noted once City Council districts changes are made, Patrol West will be more in the 6th district boundaries than Patrol North and this district will have three Police patrols South, West, and North.

Member Bradley commented that 17th street will split between two Beats and we won't know which officers to call.

Member Matney stated La Placita Park has always been split between two beats and never had any problems.

******* Action Taken: Receive and File (Schreck/Cohoon 11-0)**

2. Fireworks presentation

Matt Jordan, City Manager's Office presented the proposed options for legalized fireworks and enforcement of their use. Fire Chief Larry Garcia was also present to answer questions.

Mr. Jordan stated the 4th of July is being stated as *patriotic expression* by residents of Wichita and the City shouldn't get involved in how they celebrate this holiday. Others comment they want fireworks stopped to prevent property loss and injury. The Wichita City Council discussed this from a layout previously presented to DAB's on fireworks. Staff was asked to return to the DAB's and come back with a developed strategy. We have done research of other cities the same size as Wichita and there is no consistency. West United States with dryer cities has stricter ordinances but East United States is less aggressive.

Mr. Jordan then proceeded to review the proposed Options that were presented to the DAB in a handout. He explained the pros and cons of each option.

Member Rumsey asked what is the present code for fireworks?

Jordan responded it is a complete ban on fireworks. Firework sales are used for Big/Brothers and Boy Scouts fundraisers, this is their big yearly fundraiser and it is high profit for them. With no selling of fireworks these organizations will have a hard time financially. *Jordan* asked should we amend the fire code for now to allow this? With fires and injuries every year, do you want the City to be more aggressive during that week?

Right now limiting size and legality of fireworks is hard, no matter what we do there is continued injuries and this year we lost the Salvation Army building.

Chief Garcia added the code we have in place is not a problem. The illegal fireworks inside City limits are the problem.

Fire Department preparation for this holiday follows:

- ◆ An extensive list is given to vendors as to what they can sell.
- ◆ We test all devices that are allowed to be sold.
- ◆ Firework stands are checked for compliance during the week of the 4th.
- ◆ Fire Department does not **extra staff** for July 4th due to limited resources.

Following are questions or comments from DAB members with *responses in Italics*

- ☐ When can fireworks be shot? *4 days before 4th of July and the 4th until midnight*
- ☐ Are there time limits during the days? *No*
- ☐ What current devices can technically be shot? *Nothing higher than 6ft.*
- ☐ Firecrackers are not legal are they? *We don't know how to keep them out.*
- ☐ Ban all fireworks except the organized displays. Wranglers hold organized displays. *We could try to encourage more organized events. Neighborhood Associations could organize displays and invite the public.*
- ☐ Does the City charge for people who sell fireworks under tents? *Very minimal-not sure. We do charge for public displays.*
- ☐ Can't we up the standards without totally banning fireworks? *We could give citations when caught but without extra staff it is harder to enforce.*
- ☐ Give a minimum fine of \$10,000 that would be an easier way to enforce.
- ☐ Until all surrounding counties are on board with a plan to handle fireworks, it's like spitting into the wind. It's just too easy to go over county line and buy illegal fireworks.
- ☐ Perceptions it is kids doing this but it's really adults with the illegal fireworks
- ☐ Shoot where you buy your fireworks. Allow evening time limit say around midnight.

Chief Garcia stated to the DAB if we don't start with some form of enforcement then the city has to try and deal with it. We have cul-de-sac parties with fireworks that are dangerous including very large arsenal that shoot 70-80 ft. in the air; we deal with debris left behind. In the last few years, during enforcement on the street a resident gets the illegal fireworks confiscated and you turn around come back and then have to issue a citation as they continue shooting illegal fireworks. We give warnings and confiscate fireworks from small children and then the parents come after you. Our firemen don't carry weapons. A plan needs to be in place by the first of the year and we are asking for some direction

Jordan asked the DAB members what the City should do? Should it be more enforcement rather than warnings? If illegal fireworks are found, should it be just tickets or a bigger fine if they are fireworks purchased outside of Wichita? Should we have a time limit for shooting fireworks?

Member Foster said lets defer this for 30 days to take back to the neighborhood associations. Other members stated we won't get a consensus. Some groups won't come up with a decision. **Fearey** asked are we still to appoint a Task Force member from DAB VI?

Jordan responded yes, there is a benefit to having a task force, but the final decision will come from all the DAB's.

Chief Garcia ended saying no matter what we do and the situations we're confronted with, this discussion should be in all the neighborhood groups.

******* Action Taken:** DAB VI recommends looking at Option B with a definite time framework. If a Task Force is developed they should return to DAB with a follow-up report. (Schreck/Willis 6-5).

******* Action Taken:** DAB VI appointee for a task force will be David Pendergraft (Bradley/Schreck 11-0)

BOARD AGENDA

3. **Traffic Analysis along Arkansas from 29th to 53rd**

Recent complaints about speeding along Arkansas Avenue were asked to be evaluated by the DAB. Complaints brought forth were no stop signs or traffic signals from 29th to 53rd streets along Arkansas, which allowed people to speed.

Scott Logan, City Traffic Engineer commented he was already reviewing this area by looking at the intersections. We want to look at where we need to promote safety and enhance mobility. Could we come back to follow up after we have established a plan?

Member Cohoon stated that in the wintertime speeding was not a big problem but in the summer during the day it is bad.

Member Pendergraft asked for increased enforcement from 21st to 29th street along Arkansas on consecutive days. North of 29th street is a broken yellow line meaning you can pass, this causes problems can you look into it? What about a 4-Way Stop at 37th and Arkansas Ave? *Logan* responded he will have the yellow line looked at and have larger **STOP** signs placed on 37th street reminding drivers that Arkansas traffic doesn't stop.

Other comments were:

- ☐ Traffic should travel down Broadway, as it would allow shorter travel time.
- ☐ There is probably increased traffic due to the bridge closed at 53rd.

Fearey stated that this area is up for resurfacing next year and we want to get this problem solved before that is done.

******* Action Taken:** DAB requests the Traffic Engineer do an analysis and see if any additional stop signs or lights are warranted along this route. Traffic engineer is to bring report back to DAB with no time limit. (Foster/Cohoon 11-0)

4. **Problem Properties**

- ☐ 36th and Womer streets have continued cars for sale on weekends
- ☐ Cars for sale on weekends are also moving near the 34th and Amidon smoke shop.
- ☐ Cell tower landscaping is dead.
- ☐ N. Meridian at Keywest near Moorings the east sidewalk is buckled
- ☐ 3319 Amidon is announcing a Zoning case. Please check on this as a sign went up this last week.

******* Action Taken:** Receive and propose appropriate action with city departments.

5. **Neighborhood Reports**

North Chisholm Creek: Final topcoat east of 26th and Aley is almost done.

Sherwood Glen: on October 31st safe entertainment costume parade at the Law enforcement training center at 6 p.m. we will have treats.

Historic Midtown: will hold their annual walking tour on October 12-13. Five houses will be open. You can buy tickets at Midtown Resource Center. This year's tour is called *New Beginning for old neighborhood* we are using a different approach.

Member Schreck: went to the Castle Bed and Breakfast in Riverside to celebrate a birthday and found out it is up for sale. The owners said they are losing \$30-40,000 a year. There is not much support and Schreck said he plans on using it more often.

Orchard Park: Area has an influx of white egrets that have adopted the neighborhood to live in and we have lots of dead babies

North Riverside: Wheels show was lots of fun. We had a clean up and collected 102 tires.

Four neighborhood associations will be holding a candidate forum with 13 candidates on October 8th at Gloria Dei Lutheran at 7 p.m. They are taking written questions only.

*******Action Taken:** Receive and file

UPDATES

- *Conditional Use* to permit a car wash on property zoned "LC" Limited Commercial. On the southeast corner of 21st Street North and West Street. *Fearey discussed City Council denied the action even with a new site plan. Neighbors protested.*
- *Conditional Use* for a portable rock crusher. *Fearey stated City Council action approval with a fence to go clear around the construction site. Still much discussion on the Adult Soccer Field.*
- Patrol Services' current staffing level is approx. 95%. *Report will be distributed next meeting.*
- Media Company for cell phones at the corner of Market and 1st, wanted to put in a four-time size larger than normal sign so it could be seen from Kellogg. BZA Case was withdrawn.
- Cell Towers case out near Eastborough along Kellogg and Woodlawn has been withdrawn.
- County Commission said they were not aware of the 25th street site being selected for the bridge over the floodway by the City. Commissioner Norton is talking to Council Member Martz about looking again at 13th street.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☑ The "farewell" parties at Marina and Minisa will be held Saturday, Oct 26. Minisa will close at end of business that day. Marina will stay open through Sunday, November 3. The private preview opening at Evergreen is planned for Friday, November 15. The public grand opening/open house will be Saturday November 16 continuing into Sunday the 17th. Library hours at the new location have been set as Monday through Thursday 10am-9pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-5pm and Sundays 1-5pm.

- ☒ I-235 Highway access control fence, KDOT is responsible for the maintenance. This has been reported and KDOT will be evaluating the fence.
- ☒ Plaza Mexico will hold an event on October 11th beginning at 9a.m. Representatives from the Mexican consulate from Kansas City will be available to assist people with preparing official documents, Bank of America assisting with opening a bank account, Voter's registration and possibly a forum between Governor candidates Tim Shallenburger and Kathleen Sebelius.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. (**Schreck/Wine 11-0**)

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Dozal
District VI Neighborhood Assistant

GUESTS

Jerry Prichard	1607 N. Clarence	03
Sandra Whittington	1931 N. Mt.Carmel	03
Wendell Turner	2623 Fairview	04
Berle Willis	3834 Woodrow	04

STAFF

Larry Garcia	455 N. Main
Off. John T. Ryan	3015 E. 21 st
Lt. Wanda Parker Given	3015 E. 21 st
Off. Rob Kemp	3015 E. 21 st
Shilpi Mukherjee	City Manager's Office
Matt Jordan	City Manager's Office
Scott Logan	Traffic Engineer